

App Dkt. No.: LIT043
USPN: 10/055,788

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A control composition for a coagulation test, comprising:
 - (a) plasma aggregatable particles; ~~and~~
 - (b) calcium ions ~~and~~; and
 - (c) hemoglobin.
2. (Original) The control composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one optical contrast enhancer.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The control composition of claim 1, wherein said particles comprise polymeric beads having charged functional groups on surfaces thereof.
5. (Previously Amended) The control composition of claim 1, wherein said calcium ions comprises a calcium halide.
6. (Original) The control composition of claim 1, further comprising plasma.
7. (Previously Amended) A control composition for a coagulation test, comprising:
 - (a) plasma aggregatable particles;
 - (b) a solution of calcium ions;
 - (c) plasma; and
 - (d) hemoglobin.
8. (Original) The control composition of claim 7, wherein said solution of calcium ions further comprises an optical contrast enhancer.

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9. (Original) The control composition of claim 7, wherein said solution of calcium ions further comprises a dissolved dye.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Original) The control composition of claim 7, wherein said particles are suspended in a solution comprising an antifreeze.
12. (Original) The control composition of claim 7, wherein said particles comprise polymeric beads having charged functional groups on surfaces thereof.
13. (Original) The control composition of claim 12, wherein said polymeric beads comprise polystyrene, and said charged functional groups comprise carboxylate groups.
14. (Original) The control composition of claim 12, wherein said polymeric beads contain a dye.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously Amended) A control composition for a coagulation test, comprising:
- (a) a suspension of polymeric beads having charged functional groups on surfaces of said beads;
 - (b) a solution of calcium ions;
 - (c) citrated plasma; and
 - (d) hemoglobin.
17. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said solution of calcium ions includes an optical contrast enhancer.

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18. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said solution of calcium ions comprises a calcium halide solution.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said polymeric beads comprise polystyrene.
21. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said charged functional groups comprise carboxylate groups.
22. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said polymeric beads contain a dye.
23. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said suspension of polymeric beads further comprises an antifreeze.
24. (Original) The control composition of claim 16, wherein said solution of calcium ion further comprises a dissolved dye.
25. (Previously Amended) A method for evaluating a coagulation test, comprising:
- (a) providing a composition including calcium ions, hemoglobin and plasma aggregatable particles;
 - (b) combining said calcium ions, hemoglobin and said particles with plasma to form a control composition; and
 - (c) introducing said control composition to said coagulation test.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising monitoring coagulation of said control composition.

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27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising determining a coagulation time for said control composition.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising determining a relationship between said coagulation time of said control composition and a coagulation time of whole blood associated with said plasma in said control composition.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising determining a relationship between said coagulation time for said control composition, and a coagulation time using a reference test.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising determining a calibration curve for said coagulation test.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said coagulation test comprises a prothrombin time test.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said providing said composition comprises:

- (a) providing a suspension of said particles;
- (b) providing a solution of said calcium ions; ~~and~~
- (c) providing a hemoglobin solution; and
- (d) combining said suspension of said particles, said hemoglobin solution and said solution of said calcium ions.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said particles comprise polymeric beads having charged functional groups on surfaces thereof.

34. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein providing said composition comprises including at least one optical contrast enhancer in said composition.

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35. (Previously Amended) A method for evaluating a coagulation test, comprising:
- (a) providing plasma aggregatable particles;
 - (b) providing a solution of calcium ions and a solution containing hemoglobin;
 - (c) combining said particles with said solution of said calcium ions and said solution containing hemoglobin;
 - (d) adding citrated plasma to said combined said particles and said solutions of said calcium ions and hemoglobin to form a control composition; and
 - (e) introducing said control composition to a coagulation test.
36. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising monitoring coagulation of said control composition.
37. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising determining a coagulation time for said control composition.
38. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising determining a relationship between said coagulation time of said control composition and a coagulation time of whole blood associated with said plasma in said control composition.
39. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising determining a relationship between said coagulation time for said control composition, and a coagulation time using a reference test.
40. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising determining a calibration curve for said coagulation test.
41. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said solution of said calcium ions comprises an aggregation enhancer.

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42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein said aggregation enhancer comprises hemoglobin.

43. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said particles comprise polymeric beads with charged functional groups on surfaces thereof.

44. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said solution of said calcium ions comprises a calcium halide solution.

45. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said providing said particles comprises suspending said particles in an antifreeze.

46. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein said coagulation test comprises a prothrombin time test.

47.-54. (Cancelled)